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Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 99 (f)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Letter dated 30 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Coordinator of the Least Developed Countries in New York addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration adopted by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1999.

I would like to request you to arrange to have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99 (f).

(Signed) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Coordinator of the Least Developed Countries in New York

99-29077 (E) 121099

Annex

Declaration adopted by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, New York, 29 September 1999

We, the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries, having met at the United Nations headquarters during the 54th session of the General Assembly, on 29 September 1999 pursuant to the decision of the Dhaka Declaration of February 1990,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 28 September 1998 during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly,

Stressing the importance of the Third UN Conference on LDCs (LDC III) to be held in the year 2001,

Having assessed progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, solemnly declare the following:

1. The development problematique of the LDCs has become increasingly accentuated by the ongoing processes of globalization and liberalization. These processes have further compounded the long-term structural constraints to their growth and development, exposed them to new and formidable challenges, and rendered their efforts towards achieving sustained growth and sustainable development and poverty eradication more complicated. Against this backdrop, and the unsatisfactory implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Programme of Action, LDC III provides a major opportunity for the LDCs and their development partners to recommit themselves to strong and effective actions, within the framework of shared responsibility and genuine solidarity, to arrest and reverse the continued marginalization of LDCs and to end the unrelenting plight of their people. Coming as it does at the dawn of a new century, the Conference should aim at achieving concrete and binding global and country-level commitments on the part of both LDCs and their partners to eradicate the incidence of extreme poverty in LDCs within the first decade of the century. Simultaneously, commitments undertaken at LDC III should also promote positive integration of LDCs into the world economy and the international trading system in a measurable and time-bound manner, and support longer term development programmes in the area of sustainable human development.

2. We welcome the timely actions by the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of LDC III for launching the official preparatory process, at the secretariat level on 20 July 1999 in Geneva and for constituting a Consultative Forum for the preparatory process, thereby closely involving, at an early stage, all relevant stakeholders, comprising LDCs, development partners, civil society representatives including NGOs and the private sector, and key multilateral agencies. These actions have our full support.

3. We also welcome the initiative for global-level preparations for LDC III on thorough and adequate country-level preparatory activities. We believe that such an approach is indispensable for enabling people in different walks of life in LDCs to identify themselves with the Conference and its preparations, which is essential for effective national-level implementation of the outcome of the Conference. We also would direct our efforts to engage all stakeholders in our countries. At the same time, we call upon all relevant parties, particularly multilateral organizations, including those with field representation and donor countries, to extend full support to such preparation. We are particularly encouraged by the initiative of the European Union, host of LDC III, to fully involve their representatives in LDCs in the country-level preparatory process.

4. The relevant upcoming global meetings and conferences, including the Third WTO Ministerial Conference, UNCTAD-X, reviews of major global conferences, the Millennium Assembly and the International Intergovernmental Consideration on Financing for Development should contribute to, and be linked with, the preparatory process of the LDC III. We also believe that other ongoing and planned initiatives on LDCs should be brought under the overall umbrella of the preparations for LDC III with a view to ensuring consistency, coherence and effectiveness.

5. Effective participation of LDCs in LDC III is of utmost importance. We call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make proposals for this purpose for the consideration at the 54th session of the General Assembly, so as to defray the cost of participation of at least two representatives from each LDC in the preparatory meetings and the Conference itself. In this regard, we extend our full support to the appeal made by the Secretary-General of LDC III to mobilize extra-budgetary resources for the preparatory process.

6. The credibility and effectiveness of LDC III would rest critically on the quality of preparations. In this regard, we strongly stress the need to provide adequate human capacity and financial resources to the Conference Secretariat, particularly through the provision of regular budget resources of the United

Nations. We invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make proposals in that regard in the context of the budget for the biennium 2000-2001. We also emphasize the need to reinstate staff resources that were allocated by the General Assembly following LDC-II to support consultations among LDCs at the UN headquarters.

7. The review of the implementation of commitments undertaken in the Programme of Action for the 1990s is a major task before LDC III. In particular, objective assessments need to be made as regard to commitments in the areas of Official Development Assistance (ODA), debt, investment and trade, which have not been implemented as agreed. Far from providing LDCs with substantially increased external financial resources - as committed under the Programme of Action - and meeting the agreed targets of ODA, donor assistance has fallen to historically low levels in recent years. This has further aggravated rising debt overhang and falling commodity prices. The few donor countries which have continued to give high priority to LDCs in their ODA allocation, and meet or exceed ODA targets, deserve our deep appreciation. In the absence of meaningful external private flows, increased availability of adequate and sustained levels of external official financial resources is critical to LDCs' own efforts to resume and maintain growth and development. We call upon development partners, in particular those who have not yet done so, to meet their commitments under the Programme of Action by substantially increasing the level of aggregate financial support to LDCs.

8. The external financial situation faced by LDCs has been seriously aggravated in the 1990s by continued heavy debt and debt-servicing burden. It not only constrained their development efforts, but also undermined their credibility to mobilize external private flows. Without immediate debt cancellation, growth prospects and development of LDCs will continue to be bleak. In this regard, we commend the recent Cologne initiative to significantly reduce debt of HIPCs, the majority of whom are LDCs. We consider this to be an important step in the right direction, marking a clear improvement over the original HIPC framework. However, substantial alleviation of LDCs' debt burden is yet not in sight. We reiterate our appeal to all creditor countries and institutions to expeditiously cancel all outstanding debt owed by LDCs. While a majority of LDCs are included under the HIPC initiative, debt relief requirements of other LDCs should also be promptly and adequately met.

9. The international community has paid inadequate attention to the serious development finance crisis faced by the LDCs throughout the 1990s. It generated collapse of ODA, aggravated the debt burden and reduced export receipts. This resulted in adverse effects on growth, development and aggravation of human sufferings in these countries. This contrasts starkly with the speed and magnitude

of the financial packages made available during the financial crisis in the late 1990s. We strongly recommend that external financial issues affecting LDCs, particularly ODA, debts, and FDI, should be at the forefront of the agenda of the International Intergovernmental Consideration for Financing for Development, which would also take place in 2001. Further, a synergy should be established between this process and preparations for LDC III, including through joint documentation and joint preparatory events, as necessary.

10. In world trade, the marginalization of LDCs has accentuated in the 1990s. Strengthening LDCs' capacity to fully and effectively participate in the multilateral trading system should be an important part of international efforts to integrate LDCs into the world economy. Accession of LDCs that are not yet members of WTO to that organization should be put on a simplified fast track to complete the process within one year of application. The special and differential measures in favour of LDCs should be rendered binding by making them an integral part of the rules and disciplines governing the multilateral trading system. We stress that in implementing existing multilateral trade agreements and in future negotiations, the international community should ensure that the obligations placed on LDCs are consistent with their level of development and capacity to carry out such obligations. We further stress that significant scope exists for improving market access conditions for LDCs and call for early actions to remove tariff peaks and tariff escalation.

11. We strongly emphasize the need for assisting LDCs to prepare for the Third WTO Ministerial Conference and its follow-up. In this connection, we commend the initiative to convene the Coordinating Workshop for Senior Advisors to Ministers of Trade in LDCs in Sun City, South Africa in June 1999. We express our deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the UNDP for their financial support to the holding of this meeting and to participation of LDC representatives. We are pleased to note that the outcome of this meeting ("Integrating LDCs into the Global Economy: Proposals for a Comprehensive New Plan of Action in the Context of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference") has been officially presented to the WTO General Council by the Coordinator of LDCs in Geneva. We note that this document will also be presented to UNCTAD-X and the preparatory process for LDC III and urge that its recommendations be translated to concrete actions. We also recommend that our peers of trade meet on 29 November 1999, in Seattle, one day prior to the convening of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference with a view to coordinating the Group's position, and advancing the outcome of the workship of the Sun City. We further recommend that the Permanent Missions of the LDCs in Geneva intensify their activities on the ongoing preparatory process for the Seattle Conference so as to ensure positive and concerete results and urge UNCTAD to continue providing the necessary technical support.

12. Meaningful and beneficial integration of LDCs into the global economy and multilateral trading system requires concrete actions by the LDCs and their development partners to strengthen LDCs' supply capacities, *inter alia*, through the development of physical and institutional infrastructure and human resources development, unencumbered and improved market access, and flexibility in the use of appropriate policy instruments to strengthen competitiveness of sectors of strategic importance for the development of their trade. The initiative for duty-free treatment for all products of export interest to LDCs should be implemented immediately by all trading partners. We also call for early and effective implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs by the six core agencies (WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, ITC, IMF and World Bank).

13. We note that the process of globalization and liberalization poses serious risks and challenges to the Least Developed Countries, specially the smallest amongst them, and emphasise the importance of further improvements in the existing LDC criteria to make it reflective of structural weakness, impediments to development, and constraints to integration into the world economy. In this regard, we call for the early development of the vulnerability index for Small Islands Developing States, as called for by the General Assembly resolution 51/183 of 16 December 1996. We are of the view that the question of graduation of any LDC Member States should be deferred until such an index is developed, has been fully assessed and the report requested from UNCTAD on practical impact of the measures in favour of the LDCs in various international agreements and programmes is completed.

14. The geographical handicaps faced by land-locked LDCs add to their structural deficiencies and compound the difficulties they encounter in integrating their economies into the international trading system. The trade and development prospects of these countries depend critically on national efforts and international support to overcome physical and non-physical barriers with a view to reducing the high cost of transit transport and promoting and reliable access and services to the world markets. Like the previous UN conferences on LDCs, the specific transit-transport issues of land-locked LDCs should be adequately addressed in the preparatory process of the LDC III. In this connection, we also welcome the outcome of the fourth meeting of Governmental Experts from the Land-locked and Transit Developing countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions (New York, 24 to 26 August 1999), which contains important action-oriented recommendations that are relevant to land-locked LDCs.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to pursue macro-economic and sectoral policies conducive to promoting growth and development and eradicating poverty

in our countries. We underscore that the progress in economic transformation made by LDCs in the 1990s, albeit inadequate, has been primarily due to the wide-ranging reforms undertaken by our countries under most difficult domestic and external conditions. We note with grave concern that the numerous declarations, promises and commitments in favour of LDCs have, to a great extent, failed to materialize. As a result, the benefits from national policy reforms and adjustment programmes adopted by LDCs themselves were not fully realized. In some cases, these even have had a negative impact. Nevertheless, we will continue to make efforts to create conditions for improved implementation of national policies and external support measures for economic growth and diversification, social progress, and sustainable development.

16. Many LDCs have been ravaged by the growing number of humanitarian and natural disasters and environmental emergencies. We stress that humanitarian and natural disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development plans of affected countries and communities. International cooperation to address emergency situations and strengthen the response capacity of these countries is of great importance. We call on bilateral, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to make genuine contribution for supplementing national efforts in tackling humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

17. We reiterate that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously. We, therefore, recognise that a comprehensive approach to natural disasters and complex emergencies is needed. We stress the need for early joint planning and prioritisation, the central role of capacity building, the importance of a clearly agreed division of labour through inter-agency collaboration, as well as the need for more flexible financial systems for transitional programming.

18. We express our appreciation to the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, and her Government for the continued leadership and coordination of the LDCs in various forums, and request her to continue to play this important role, including taking up with other Heads of State or Government and international institutions, issues relating to LDC III during the critical preparatory process. We also decide to convene a Ministerial preparatory meeting prior to LDC III to formulate our position on issues before the Conference and, in accordance with the past practice, request the Government of Bangladesh to host this meeting. We request the Secretary-General of the Conference to mobilize resources for holding the Ministerial Meeting, for participation of delegations from LDCs, and to provide substantive support to this event within the overall framework of preparations for LDC III.

United Nations A/C.2/54/4

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 100 (f)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I have the honour to draw to your attention, for appropriate action by the Second Committee, the following decision, adopted by the General Assembly at the 5th plenary meeting of its twenty-second special session, held on 28 September 1999:

> "At the 5th plenary meeting of its twenty-second special session, on 28 September 1999, the General Assembly decided to take note of the letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and of the annex thereto (A/S-22/6), and decided to transmit the letter and its annex to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for further consideration by the Second Committee under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

(*Signed*) Theo-Ben **Gurirab**

99-29687 (E) 181099

Annex

Letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

You may be aware that, in the context of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, interested delegations have been conducting open-ended consultations on the question of a draft resolution on the Caribbean Sea, originally proposed for consideration by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico. The delegation of Canada was honoured to have served, at the request of interested delegations, as facilitator of open-ended informal consultations on this matter.

I am pleased to submit to you for your attention the attached text which reflects the state of consultations on this question as of 24 September 1999 (see appendix). As you will note, it includes bracketed elements on which further work will be required before any final agreement is secured.

(*Signed*) Robert R. **Fowler**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Appendix

Twenty-second special session of the General Assembly devoted to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Guyana* and Mexico: draft resolution

Alt. 1: [Recognition of the Caribbean Sea [region] as a special area in the context of sustainable devclopment]

Alt. 2: [Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development]

The General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992,[a] and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[b] and Programme of Action[c] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

(need to make reference to the International Maritime Organization somewhere in the resolution)

2. [*Taking into account* all other relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,]

(paragraph to be deleted or to be integrated with preambular paragraph 1 or 3, or all other relevant resolutions should be spelled out)

3. *Reaffirming also* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[d]

4. *Recalling* that the Caribbean Sea is defined by the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, adopted in 1983,

5. *Considering* that the Caribbean Sea comprises a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States, which are [vulnerable and also] affected by, *inter alia*, their limited capacity, narrow resource bases, need for financial resources, social problems, high levels of poverty and the challenges and opportunities of globalization,

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* On behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[b] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, annex I.

[c] Ibid., annex II.

[d] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

6. *Considering also* that the Caribbean Sea, with nearly all of its area separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, is characterized by [the semi-enclosed nature of the Sea] a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, such as the second largest coral reef system in the world, the heavy reliance of most of the States, countries and territories in the Caribbean region on their coastal areas and the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals, the number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction in the Caribbean Sea, which present a challenge for the effective management of the resources, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transportation and, notwithstanding the increase in regulatory measures, the threat of pollution from ship-generated waste as well as [accidental][any] release of hazardous and noxious substances,

7. *Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as sea level rise, the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity [of natural disasters caused by][of] hurricanes, floods and droughts, [and they are also subject to natural disasters such as those caused by] volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

8. *Mindful* of the strong interaction and competition in the countries of the region among socio-economic activities for the use of coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

9. *Mindful* also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address, in a more holistic manner, the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea for sustainable development,

10. *Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea as the heritage of present and future generations of people living in the Caribbean and its importance to the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of these people and of the urgent need to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection by the countries of the region with the support of the international community:

1. *Alternative 1*: *Recognizes* the importance of an integrated management approach for achieving the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea;

Alternative 2: *Decides* to recognize the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, deserving of appropriate protection while being sensitive to the requirements of all users;

Alternative 3: *Decides* to recognize that the Caribbean Sea is an area of sea of great importance for sustainable development, as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, deserving of appropriate protection while being sensitive to the requirements of all users and in compatibility with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

1 *bis*. *Encourages* the further development of the integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development, which will include, *inter alia*, environmental, economic, social, legal and institutional elements;

2. *Calls upon* the international community and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant agencies, actively to support the efforts [to develop further and implement this approach,][of the Caribbean countries to further develop an integrated and holistic approach to the sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,];

3. *Alternative 1*: *Calls upon* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities to allow for a timely, effective and coordinated response [to natural disasters as well as the need to contain][aimed at containing] environmental damage in the Caribbean Sea in the event of an accident or incident relating to maritime transport;

(need to make reference to increasing participation in currently existing mechanisms)

Alternative 2: *Calls upon* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to increasing their participation in existing mechanisms in order to allow for a timely, effective and coordinated response to natural disasters and for containment of environmental damage in the Caribbean Sea in the event of an accident or incident relating to maritime transport;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by the relevant regional organizations.

(Need to make reference to linking reporting in the overall context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the follow-up to the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

United Nations A/C.2/54/5

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Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda items 99 and 100

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 12 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999, which was attended by the Heads of State of Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and Chad.

At the appropriate time the delegation of Cameroon, on behalf of the aforementioned countries, intends to submit a draft resolution on the conservation and sustainable management of the subregion's forests; in the meantime, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this Declaration issued as a document of the Second Committee, under agenda items 99 and 100.

(Signed) Martin **Belinga Eboutou**

99-29705 (E) 181099 181099

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued on 17 March 1999 by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (Yaoundé Declaration)

At the invitation of His Excellency, Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon,

His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, represented by Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry in charge of Fisheries and Water Resources,

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, represented by Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge, Vice-President of the Republic,

His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea,

His Excellency Ange Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic,

His Excellency, Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad,

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Guest of Honour,

met in Yaounde on 17 March 1999 to examine matters relating to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa,

Concerned about the need to conserve and sustainably manage their forest ecosystems which are an important natural, universal and ecological resource for present and future generations,

Recalling the efforts made by each State and need to conserve these assets, which are socially, economically, and ecologically important,

Convinced that the sustainable management of forest resources can significantly contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of the States of the subregion,

Desiring to make concerted efforts to promote the rational use and sustainable development of forest resources through the conservation of the entire biodiversity,

Conscious of the importance of involving the population and the business community in the sustainable management of forest ecosystems,

Convinced of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and the control of desert encroachment in line with commitments made by the international community,

Conscious of the sovereign role of the State in the drafting and implementation of laws and regulations to facilitate the sustainable management of natural resources,

The Heads of State proclaim:

Their attachment to the principle of biodiversity conservation and to the sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa;

The right of their people to count on forest resources in promoting their economic and social development;

Their old belief in the need to tailor the requirements of economic and social development to biodiversity conservation within the framework of well-understood subregional and international cooperation;

Their interest in seeing the international community, which is quite aware of the ecological role of forests, set up an international mechanism for the financing of a trust fund to lend support, in a sustainable manner, to the countries of the subregion in their efforts to develop, conserve and carry out research on their forest ecosystems;

Their support of and solidarity with the Sahelian countries of Central Africa in their efforts to control desert encroachment.

They undertake to:

Accelerate the process of setting up protected transborder zones lying between Central African States and call on neighbouring countries to be part of the process by strengthening the sustainable management of the existing protected areas;

Develop an appropriate forestry tax system and the attendant implementation measures, which will, in the long term, lend support to the conservation, sustainable development of and research on forest ecosystems;

Adopt harmonized national forestry policies and step up efforts to draw up development instruments, notably harmonized certification systems recognized by the international community and approved by Central African States, and develop the human resources necessary for their implementation;

Step up efforts to increasingly involve the rural population in the planning and sustainable management of ecosystems and to leave enough space for their socio-economic development;

Ensure that economic operators are increasingly involved in the sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems;

Take steps to ensure that the programmes for developing forest ecosystems are in line with those for other sectors, notably reafforestation, transport and agriculture;

Make concerted efforts to stamp out large-scale poaching and any other non-sustainable exploitation in the subregion, in conjunction with all the parties, notably economic operators and the population;

Promote and increase the pace of industrialization in this sector and set up appropriate mechanisms for private sector financing with a view to maximizing added value and creating new and better jobs, without losing sight of the sustainable use of forest resources;

Promote national and subregional forums for the exchange of experiences, encourage the establishment of networks linking the relevant forest research and development institutions and strengthen coordination and cooperation between all the national and international organizations involved in the sustainable use and conservation of biological resources and forest ecosystems;

Establish in each State lasting mechanisms for financing forest development using revenue generated by the forestry sector and international cooperation;

Organize other summits on the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems;

Lastly, the Heads of State hereby give the mandate to their Ministers in charge of the management and conservation of forest ecosystems to revive the Organization for Wildlife Conservation in Central Africa, in particular by transferring its headquarters to the Republic

of Cameroon, coordinate and ensure the implementation of the resolutions passed during this summit.

They thanked

His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, for the warm and, brotherly welcome he accorded them, for their comfortable stay in Yaoundé and for the smooth running of the first Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of tropical forests.

Done in Yaoundé on 17 March 1999.

(Signed)

His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon

His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, represented by Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry in charge of Fisheries and Water Resources

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, represented by Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge, Vice-President of the Republic

His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

His Excellency Ange Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic

His Excellency Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad

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United Nations A/C.2/54/6

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 100 (d)
Environment and sustainable development: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Letter dated 26 October 1999 from the President of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifth session to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I refer to sub-item 100 (d) of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", currently under consideration by the Second Committee, and attach for the information of the Committee a decision relevant to the sub-item and adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the second plenary meeting of its fifth session, on 25 October 1999 (see annex). By this decision, the Conference of the Parties invited the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to decide on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, and also approved the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001 in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modification as may be considered desirable by both parties.

I would greatly appreciate your bringing the attached decision to the attention of the Second Committee and inviting the Committee to take it into account when recommending action by the General Assembly on sub-item 100 (d).

(*Signed*) Jan **Szyszko**
President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session

99-31783 (E) 291099

Annex

Decision __/CP.5
Institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/CP.1, whereby it decided that the Convention secretariat shall be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated in the work programme and management structure of any department or programme, and decided further to review the functioning of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, not later than 31 December 1999, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Taking note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary that the institutional linkage is working satisfactorily and is being adapted to changing circumstances,

Taking note also of the expression of intent by the Secretary-General to seek the endorsement of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for continuation of the institutional linkage,

1. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to decide at its fifty-fourth session on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

2. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties.